

## WG I WORLD GEOGRAPHY

**Course Description:** Students will examine the global perspectives, basic concepts, and fundamental questions of geography. Students will explore where phenomena occur and reasons why phenomena occur in those locations. Students will focus on the ways through which all places on Earth are interconnected and how the human use of Earth's surface varies. Students will also explore various topics, including geographic skills and tools, physical processes, natural resources, cultural geography, political geography, population and migration, economic development and interdependence, and urbanization.

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## Grades 9-12

### Social Studies Practices

**Overview:** Students will apply these skills to create and address questions that will guide inquiry and critical thinking. These practices should be regularly applied throughout the year. Students will progress through the inquiry cycle (SSP.01-SSP.04) by analyzing primary and secondary sources to construct and communicate their conceptual understanding of the content standards and to develop historical and geographic awareness (SSP.05- SSP.06).

SSP.01	<p>Collect data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Printed materials (e.g., literary texts, newspapers, autobiographies, speeches, interviews, letters, personal journals)</li> <li>● Graphic representations (e.g., maps, timelines, charts, political cartoons, photographs, artwork)</li> <li>● Field observations/landscape analysis</li> <li>● Artifacts</li> <li>● Media and technology sources</li> </ul>
SSP.02	<p>Critically examine a primary or secondary source in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Extract and paraphrase significant ideas</li> <li>● Discern differences between evidence and assertion</li> <li>● Draw inferences and conclusions</li> <li>● Recognize author’s purpose, point of view, and potential bias</li> <li>● Assess the strengths and limitations of arguments</li> </ul>
SSP.03	<p>Synthesize data from a variety of sources in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establish accuracy and validity by comparing sources to each other</li> <li>● Recognize disparities among multiple accounts</li> <li>● Frame appropriate questions for further investigation</li> </ul>

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SSP.04	<p>Construct and communicate arguments citing supporting evidence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Demonstrate and defend an understanding of ideas</li> <li>● Compare and contrast viewpoints</li> <li>● Illustrate cause and effect</li> <li>● Predict likely outcomes</li> <li>● Devise new outcomes or solutions</li> </ul>
SSP.05	<p>Develop historical awareness by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recognizing how and why historical accounts change over time</li> <li>● Perceiving and presenting past events and issues as they might have been experienced by the people of the time, with historical empathy rather than present-mindedness</li> <li>● Evaluating how unique circumstances of time and place create context and contribute to action and reaction</li> <li>● Identifying patterns of continuity and change over time, making connections to the present</li> </ul>
SSP.06	<p>Develop geographic awareness by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Using the geographic perspective to analyze relationships, patterns, and diffusion across space at multiple scales (e.g., local, national, global)</li> <li>● Analyzing and determining the use of diverse types of maps based on the origin, authority, structure, context, and validity</li> <li>● Analyzing locations, conditions, and connections of places and using maps to investigate spatial associations among phenomena</li> <li>● Examining how geographers use regions and how perceptions of regions are fluid across time and space</li> <li>● Analyzing interaction between humans and the physical environment</li> </ul>

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## Geographic Skills and Tools

**Overview:** Students will learn foundational geographic concepts, including how to use maps, globes, and geospatial technologies, and utilize their geographic content knowledge within the study of world regions and processes. *These standards are meant to be addressed and implemented in the following unit and throughout the duration of the course.*

WG.01	Explain geography as a field of inquiry, differentiate between physical and human geography, describe the importance of the spatial perspective, and use spatial thinking skills to analyze global issues.	G
WG.02	Synthesize geographic information from a variety of sources to analyze both human and physical processes in the world's regions, countries, and cities.	G
WG.03	Explain the use of major geographic concepts (e.g., globalization, location, pattern, place, region, scale, site, and situation).	C, G
WG.04	Define the concept of region, identify different types (e.g., formal, functional, perceptual), and give examples.	C, G, P
WG.05	Define mental map, and explain its usefulness in geographic analysis.	G
WG.06	Read and interpret maps and globes using cardinal directions, latitude and longitude, legends, map scale, and title.	G
WG.07	Identify, use, and evaluate the usefulness of different types of map projections (e.g., Mercator, Robinson, Goode's Homolosine).	G, H
WG.08	Create and compare physical, political, and thematic maps (e.g., choropleth, dot density, proportional symbol, isoline, cartogram).	G, P
WG.09	Analyze patterns and processes at different scales (e.g., local, national, regional, global).	G, P, T
WG.10	Describe the importance of geospatial technologies (i.e., GIS, GPS, remote sensing), and apply them in relevant contexts.	G

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WG.11	Use geographic knowledge, skills, and perspectives to analyze problems and make decisions.	C, E, G, H, P
WG.12	Relate current events to the physical and human characteristics of place and regions.	C, E, G, H, P

## Physical Process, Natural Resources, and the Environment

**Overview:** Students will examine the concepts and elements of physical geography, how physical processes have shaped the Earth's surface, and how the presence of natural resources (or lack thereof) influences the distribution of human populations and activities.

WG.13	Describe ways in which different types of physical and natural processes create and shape the surface of the Earth.	G, H
WG.14	Describe how unique weather patterns impact geography and population distribution of a region (e.g., drought, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes).	C, G, H
WG.15	Describe how societies modify and adapt to the environment, and explain how technology impacts the ability to do so.	C, G, H
WG.16	Analyze how people interact with and modify the environment to satisfy basic needs and solve challenges (e.g., access to fresh water, energy resources, irrigation, transportation, type of housing).	C, E, G, H
WG.17	Explain how humans are affected by and depend on the physical environment and its resources.	G, H
WG.18	Analyze the distribution of natural resources, how they have impacted the economies of various world regions, and their connections to global trade.	E, G, H
WG.19	Identify examples of scarcity in and around specific world regions.	E, G

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## Cultural Geography

**Overview:** Students will study culture from a geographic perspective by identifying the predominant culture traits that shape the cultural landscape in each major world region. Students will then use this knowledge to make comparisons between regions and analyze changing cultural patterns.

WG.20	Define the concept of culture and its components (e.g., culture hearth, culture traits, material and nonmaterial culture, etc.).	C, G
WG.21	Explain how physical geography and economic practices shape the cultural landscapes of various regions.	C, G, H, P
WG.22	Locate, describe, and compare major cultural characteristics in the regions of North, Central, and South America.	C, G, H, P
WG.23	Locate, describe, and compare major cultural characteristics in the regions of Europe.	C, G, H, P
WG.24	Locate, describe, and compare major cultural characteristics in the regions of Sub-Saharan Africa.	C, G, H, P
WG.25	Locate, describe, and compare major cultural characteristics in the regions of North Africa and Southwest Asia.	C, G, H, P
WG.26	Locate, describe, and compare major cultural characteristics in the regions of East, South, and Southeast Asia.	C, G, H, P
WG.27	Locate, describe, and compare major cultural characteristics of regions in the South Pacific and Oceania.	C, G, H, P
WG.28	Analyze how cultural characteristics (e.g., ethnicity, gender roles, identity, language, religion) link and/or divide regions or societies.	C, G, H, P
WG.29	Describe the challenges of clearly defining cultural regions around the world.	C, G, H

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## Political Geography

<b>Overview:</b> Students will analyze the political divisions of the Earth's surface as well as differentiate between the types of political divisions and how those divisions create opportunities for conflict and cooperation among people.		
WG.30	Define and differentiate between nation, state, and nation-state.	C, G, H, P
WG.31	Explain and analyze the reasons for the creation of different political divisions (e.g., state, nation-state, federal states, unitary states, electoral districts).	C, G, H, P
WG.32	Describe different types of political boundaries (i.e., cultural and physical) and shapes (e.g., compact, fragmented, elongated, prorupted, perforated), and explain benefits and drawbacks associated with each.	C, G, H, P
WG.33	Analyze the changes between historical political maps and modern political maps, explain how and why political borders change, and describe the impact of these changes on populations (e.g., the former Soviet Union, the former Yugoslavia, Israel, South Asia, Africa, etc.).	C, G, H, P
WG.34	Define, give examples, and evaluate supranational organizations and their roles (e.g., the United Nations, European Union, NATO, etc.).	E, G, H, P

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## Population and Migration

<b>Overview:</b> Students will examine factors that affect the distribution, growth, and movement of human populations around the world and population and migration patterns across major world regions.		
WG.35	Compare and contrast the distribution, growth rates, and characteristics of human populations at different scales in terms of settlement patterns and access to natural and economic resources.	C, E, G, H, P, T
WG.36	Analyze the characteristics (e.g., age, gender, life expectancy, natural increase rate) of populations at different scales (e.g., local, national, global) using census data and population pyramids.	C, G, H, T
WG.37	Define and give examples of economic, social, political, and environmental push and pull factors.	C, E, G, H, P, T
WG.38	Define and give examples of voluntary, forced, interregional, and intraregional migration patterns.	C, G, H, P, T
WG.39	Analyze past and present trends in human migration and the role of intervening obstacles and opportunities (e.g., economic, social, political, and environmental).	C, E, G, H, P, T
WG.40	Describe the impact and challenges of migration on both the sending and receiving countries.	C, E, G, H, P

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## Economic Development and Interdependence

<b>Overview:</b> Students will examine global patterns of economic development, the impact of physical geographic features on global patterns, and patterns of economic interdependence between countries and regions.		
WG.41	Differentiate between developed and developing countries, and evaluate how economic and social indicators are used to determine a country's level of development.	C, E, G, H, P
WG.42	Analyze the spatial distribution and patterns of developed and developing countries.	E, G, H
WG.43	Define comparative advantage, and evaluate how a country leverages its access to land, labor, and capital to expand trade.	E, G, H
WG.44	Identify physical, economic, cultural, and political factors that influence the locations and patterns of economic activities, trade, and economic development.	C, E, G, H, P
WG.45	Describe how goods and services are exchanged on local, national, and global levels, including: bartering, monetary exchange, and transportation.	E, G, P, T
WG.46	Interpret and analyze a chart, graph, or resource map of major imports and exports of goods and services.	E, G, T
WG.47	Analyze the global patterns and networks of economic interdependence (e.g., dependence on resources, use of low cost labor, the new international division of labor, etc.).	E, G
WG.48	Locate, describe, and evaluate the formation of trade blocs throughout the world (e.g., EU, NAFTA, ASEAN, CARICOM, etc.).	E, G, H, P

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## Urbanization

<b>Overview:</b> Students will analyze trends and patterns of urban growth around the world, explore reasons for urban growth in certain locations, and evaluate the challenges that result from urban growth and decline.		
WG.49	Describe reasons for increasing urbanization around the world and the economic, social, and political implications.	C, E, G, H, P
WG.50	Locate both the largest and fastest growing cities in the world, and analyze their locations using the concepts of site and situation.	C, G, P
WG.51	Explain how the function and role of towns and cities change over time, applying the concepts of urban hierarchy and central place theory.	C, G, P, T
WG.52	Describe how cities are structured, including their unique roles and characteristics.	C, E, G, P, T
WG.53	Describe the challenges of urban areas (e.g., access to public services, affordability of housing, discrimination, gentrification, overpopulation, pollution, sprawl, transportation, zones of abandonment).	C, E, G, P, T

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